

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
September 5, 2023  
6:30 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE**

The City Council of Columbus, Kansas met September 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. presided over by Mayor Grant Spieth. Council members present: Tom Pryor, Lindsay Shoemaker, Stephanie Farstvedt, Kathy Doherty and Wiley Sanders. Council members absent: none.

Curt Zahm from Center Christian Church provided the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING**

Mayor Grant Spieth opened the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing at 6:32 p.m. for the purpose of exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate and giving taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget.

Doherty made a motion to approve Resolution No. 652 to levy a property tax rate exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate of 49.524 mills. Pryor seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

The Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing was closed at 6:35 p.m.

**2024 CITY BUDGET HEARING**

The 2024 City Budget Hearing was opened at 6:36 p.m. for the purpose of giving taxpayers an opportunity to comment on the budget prior to the budget adoption.

The 2024 City Budget Hearing closed at 6:41 p.m.

Pryor moved to approve the 2024 budget as presented. Farstvedt seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Farstvedt, Pryor, Sanders, Shoemaker. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Farstvedt moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of Appropriation Ordinance #23-607, City Council Meeting Minutes - August 21, 2023, Municipal Court Docket Summary - August 28, 2023, and Treasurer's Report – August 31, 2023. Shoemaker seconded the motion. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Sidewalk Discussion – 118 W. Olive**

City Superintendent Randy Coble led the discussion regarding a requested exemption by Mr. Nate Long for the replacement of the sidewalk on the west side of his property. Coble stated in his opinion and in accordance with the City Municipal Code, any sidewalk removed should be replaced per City design and ADA accessibility requirements.

Mr. Long addressed the council and stated it was not his intention to never replace the sidewalk but instead wait to replace it until the other adjoining sidewalks were repaired or replaced. After discussion, the Council decided not to make any changes to the City Municipal Code regarding sidewalks and declined to grant an exception.

Coble stated strategic planning of future sidewalks would be discussed in the next city council work session meeting on September 11.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**City Administrator** – City Administrator Jake Letner reported the Splash Pad would stay open another week due to the hot weather.

**City Clerk** – City Clerk Ruth Hutley reported the city swimming pool revenue was up and expenses down by approximately \$3,000 in 2023 compared to the previous year.

**Police Department** – Police Chief Jason Daniels reported that he, along with the City Administrator Letner, have been working on a parking plan for the Columbus Day Festival. They recently presented their proposed plan to the Chamber of Commerce who gave their approval.

-Daniels advised that the city is on a waiting list for purchasing a Kansas Highway Patrol vehicle with the next availability to purchase being in February 2024.

-The annual Police, Pork and PRIDE competition BBQ previously planned during the Columbus Day Festival has been cancelled due to staff shortages, but Daniels hopes to have a BBQ event in the spring of 2024.

**Fire Department** – no report.

**Public Works** – Public Works Superintendent Randy Coble reported employees will go back to their regular work schedule of 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday beginning September 11.

-The citywide Fall Cleanup will be September 25 through September 29. Residents are asked to have any items at the curb on September 25 as crews will be working throughout the week to pick them up.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider the Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant Application from Team Threads.**

Shoemaker made a motion to approve the grant application from Team Threads in the amount of \$4,570.00. Motion was seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider the Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant Application from Jacob Conard.**

Shoemaker made a motion to approve the grant application from Jacob Conard not to exceed \$5,000. Motion was seconded by Pryor. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

**Consider the Commercial Property Rehabilitation Grant Application from Janelle & Mike Bowman.**

Doherty made a motion to approve the grant application from Janelle & Mike Bowman in the amount of \$1,417.50 which was the remainder of the program budget amount. Motion was seconded by Shoemaker. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker. Voting nay: Sanders. Motion carried 4-1.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pryor called for a seven-minute executive session at 7:43 p.m. for personal matters of non-elected personnel to discuss employee discipline with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Superintendent and City Attorney in attendance. Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session 7:50 p.m.  
No action taken.

Pryor called for a seven-minute executive session at 7:52 p.m. for personal matters of non-elected personnel to discuss employee discipline with the Council, Mayor, City Administrator, City Clerk, Police Chief and City Attorney in attendance. Motion seconded by Doherty. Voting aye: Doherty, Pryor, Farstvedt, Shoemaker, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.

Regular session 7:59 p.m.  
No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Farstvedt moved to adjourn the meeting. Doherty seconded. Voting aye: Doherty, Shoemaker, Pryor, Farstvedt, Sanders. Voting nay: None. Motion carried 5-0.  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **City Council Work Session – Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Cherokee County Economic Development Member Recognition Breakfast – Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023, at the Mollie Venue & Retreat in Galena, Ks from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.**
- **League of Kansas Municipalities Annual Conference Oct. 7 – 9, 2023.**

  
Ruth Hutley, City Clerk

